## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COUNTY OF CENTRE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

## RESOLUTION 1 OF 2018 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CITIZENS COMMISSION FOR LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

WHEREAS, the citizens of Centre County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process of the decennial drawing of state legislature and congressional districts of near equal population; and

WHEREAS, legislative and congressional redistricting has at times resulted in gerrymandered districts that favor one political party over others; and

WHEREAS, such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts has worked at times to the detriment of our representative democracy; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a truly independent citizens redistricting commission devoid of political motivation or partisanship will ensure a fair, transparent, and accurate legislative and congressional redistricting process that respects political subdivisions; prohibit districts from being drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party or candidate; require the use of impartial and sound methodology when setting district boundaries; require public input; and fully comply with the constitutional requirement that "no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward" be divided "unless absolutely necessary," and

WHEREAS, legislation to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reform the decennial legislative and congressional redistricting process with the intent of using fairness and sound methodology in a non-partisan fashion is required to ensure these reforms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Centre County Board of Commissioners does hereby support legislative efforts to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to assign the decennial task of both legislative and congressional redistricting to an independent citizens redistricting commission; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call upon all those elected officials in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who represent the citizens of Centre County to publicly announce their support of and commitment to work towards passage of such legislative efforts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution will be sent to all members of the Pennsylvania Senate and House that represent Centre County and to each of the thirty-five municipal boards and councils.

**ADOPTED** this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2018.

**ATTEST** 

Margaret N. Gray, Administrator

CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael Pipe, Chair

Mark Higgins, Vice-Chair

Steven G. Dershem, Commissioner